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24 July 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Dominican Republic: [The OAS Committee is under growing pressure to force an early settlement on the two contending governments.]

[Ambassador Bunker of the OAS Committee met on 22 July with a prominent Dominican businessman and civic leader who urged the committee to move quickly, and to apply whatever pressure may be necessary to end the impasse as soon as possible. He said the general public as well as the business community approve the OAS formula and are "desperate" for a settlement. He claimed both governments lack popular support.]

[Representatives of other groups have expressed similar sentiments. Morale is low within the rebel camp and the desire for an early settlement is widespread. Only the hard-line extremists favor continuing the fight and a few leaders, like rebel foreign minister Cury and Hector Aristy, seem intent on prolonging the impasse in the hope of securing some rebel gains in the settlement terms.]

[Reports from the Dominican interior also reflect widespread desire for a quick settlement. Although living conditions have improved somewhat since the early days of the insurrection, the continuing isolation of the country's business and commercial center, in rebel hands, is still disrupting life in the interior. Unemployment is a serious problem.]

[Corruption among local police and other governmental personnel apparently has further alienated the public from government authority. There seems to be growing support for former president Balaguer, who has the reputation of being the "only" honest Dominican politician.]

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South Arabia: [The British position in Aden has been further weakened by the refusal of the local Aden Government to receive a British commission on independence for South Arabia.]

[The Aden Government, a member of the South Arabian Federation, opposed the commission at its inception several months ago, insisting that Aden's identity would be lost under the proposed independence plan. The remaining members of the federation, the back-country sultanates, envy and fear the more advanced Aden. They hope the proposed commission will bring independence in a form giving the balance of political power to the sultanates.]

[On 18 July there were large-scale resignations from the federation cabinet. There already was discontent in the cabinet with the lack of British support in countering attacks on the border from Yemen. The tribal leaders, who have been Britain's chief allies against Yemeni incursions, may cripple the federal government by withdrawing their support and retiring to their tiny states.]

[London is considering various alternative plans to get constitutional talks going, but without much hope of success. British officials admit [] their main purpose is to prevent further erosion of their position until future plans for the Aden military base are determined in the UK defense review now under way.] []

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Gomulka's plenum

Poland: Serious differences about Poland's future course] reportedly have developed among top party leaders.

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These differences could erupt at the party central committee plenum scheduled for 27 July. The plenum, already postponed twice, is to be devoted to economic planning and management. A Polish Government source told a US Embassy official that economic policy had become "almost hopelessly tangled" because of "irresponsible political maneuvering within the party."

Even if those who favor internal reform and increased trade with the West should receive a sympathetic hearing at the plenum they are likely to gain only minor reforms which will do little to relieve the stagnation in Poland.

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NOTES

Greece: [Public security measures are being tightened in the wake of the recent riots and demonstrations, and in anticipation of more antigovernment disturbances over the week end. Meanwhile, members of former prime minister Papandreou's Center union continue searching for a solution that will reunify the party and pull Greece out of its political morass. Athanasiadis-Novas may now have sufficient support to get a vote of confidence next week, but he could have difficulty developing a working majority in Parliament.]

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Communist China: [Peiping has resumed gold purchases in the London market. The Chinese have been inactive in this market since May, but on 19 July they ordered at least 8 tons and there are indications that they are trying to exchange further quantities of sterling for gold. Between early February, when the gold purchases began, and May, Peiping bought 70-75 tons, worth about \$80 million.]

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